The Lions' Pride

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Learning From the Past

By Jessica Miller
Layout Editor

About 500 years ago, Ponce de Leon set his foot upon the white sand of a land that was later to be known as the state of Florida. In order to celebrate Ponce de Leon's feat, the Pasco County Library System is burying a time capsule this year in the Pasco County Courthouse Commission Chambers in Dade City. The capsule shall be open in the year 2087 to mark Pasco County's Bicentennial.

The State of Florida is doing the Viva Florida 500 intuitive, which marks the anniversary that Ponce de Leon came to the state and gave Florida its name. In order to aid in the announcement and celebration of many years of diverse cultural history, the state, under the Governor Rick Scott, has enacted to give time capsules to all the library systems across the state. Sue Knowlton, the leader of the Pasco County time capsule project, hopes that these time capsules will help to "highlight local history and to engage the community."

Each of the library systems across the state is allowed to use the time capsule as long as the capsule is used in history education for the community. The Pasco County Library System used their time capsule to have the community engage in a competition to display what Pasco County life is compromise of, currently using the mediums of photos and essays that shall be in the time capsule. The submissions are kept simple for a capsule that has dimensions which roughly measure 24 by 6 inches. Other items shall be included on behalf of the library system, such as an e-reader, a cellphone, and maybe even business cards, to make the time capsule unique.

The contest ran from July 1 through Oct. 15 and was separated into three age groups: 6-12, 13-17 and 18 and over. This separation put in place in order to have a more diverse spread of entries that could truly reflect the local community on many different levels. The top two winners for each category will received Visa gift cards. First prize is a $75 gift card and second place is a $25 gift card.

In addition, there shall be two honorable mentions that will be announced the day of the "burial" of the time capsule. The winning entries are going to be printed on acid free paper and placed into the time capsule. Multitudes of people shall pass by the time capsule which, instead of being buried, shall be placed in the Dade City Courthouse to be displayed to the public until its opening in the year 2087.

The 75 year period will be a close anniversary to the University's own bicentennial that shall occur in the year of 2089. While the University has two current time capsules on campus — the Monk statue in front of the Daniel A. Cannon Memorial Library and the other underneath the University crest at the School of Business Building — the question arises about how important are time capsules to the community?

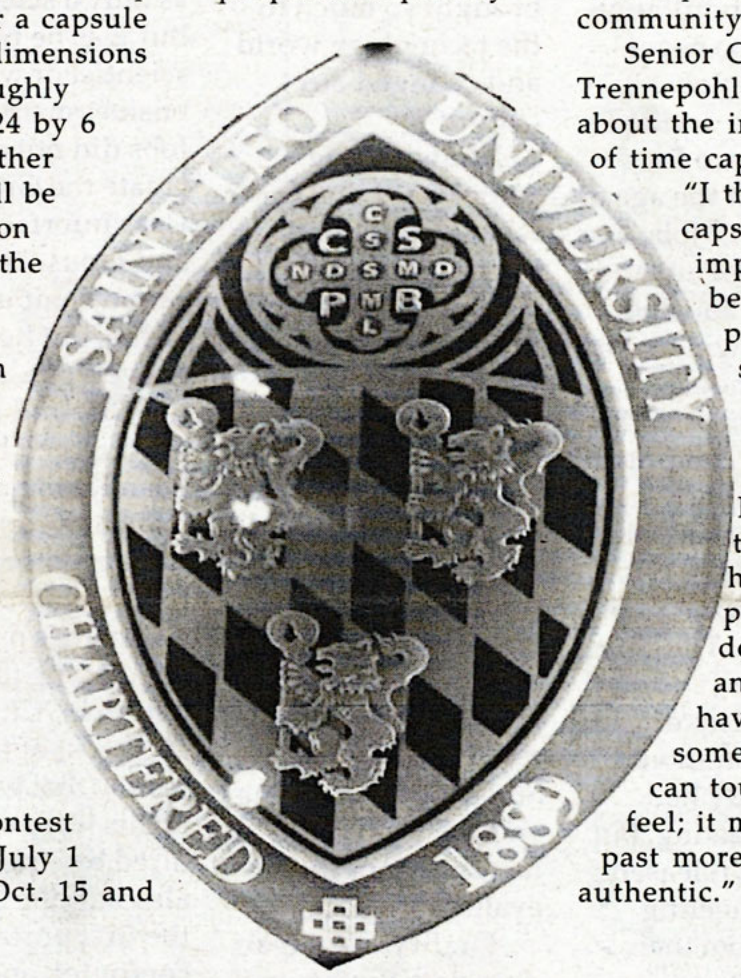
Senior Carissa Trennepohl remarked about the importance of time capsules:

"I think time capsules are important because they provide something physical for future generations. It's one thing to have stories passed down, it's another to have something you can touch and feel; it makes the past more authentic."

Physical history, passed down thought artifacts and capsules, has given contemporary scholars more credible information on the past and on the culture of different societies. However, time capsules are becoming more common among communities, which denote the time capsules' value and importance for future generations because of the large amount of time capsules being used. Students on campus have expressed that while time capsules are important, they are not filled with items that future generations can truly obtain value from; and would prefer less, but more serious plans for time capsules and how they can aid in giving a positive future impact.

"I think they [time capsules] are important in the sense that they provide a look back at the American culture (if applied to our country) as it was highlighted in that time frame. I wouldn't necessarily go out of my way to provide time and effort for a capsule, but if someone was determined about creating one, I would be amused at the opportunity to share something so seemingly mild in my time to something that will be a relic in the future," said Junior Beth Dorney.

The future generations of the University and the local community of Pasco County can learn from us today. It truly puts the actions of the student into perspective, and how each student or member of our community can help those of tomorrow. Time capsules are just one of several ways to accomplish leaving one's mark in educated future generations.



One of the University's time capsules is placed outside of the School of Bussiness Building, underneath the School crest.

Photo taken by Joanna Ozog.

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World News

Steve Jobs' Old Home to Possibly Become a Historic Site

By Tom Buckley
Contributing Writer

It was over 37 years ago when the first consumer usable computer, the Apple I, was created in Steve Jobs's garage. Since then, Apple computers has become one of the biggest and most powerful companies in the world, producing the Macintosh, iPod, iPhone, and iPad, and other products.

On Aug. 26 the City of Los Altos California Historical Commission reviewed a proposal submitted by Zach Dahl, one of the members on the commission, to put a historical property evaluation on the house where Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak started Apple Computers. There is no information yet on whether or not this will.

The house, located at 2066 Crist Drive in Los Altos, was built in 1953, two years before Steve Jobs was born.

Steve Jobs was born to Joanne Schieble, an unmarried recent college graduate from the University of Wisconsin. Schieble traveled to San Francisco to have Jobs because her parents didn't want her to marry the father of the Jobs, Abdulfattah Jandali, who never got to meet Jobs.

Schieble decided to put him up for adoption at the age of four months. Jobs was adopted by Paul and Clara Jobs and spent his life growing up in that same house where he created the first Apple computer.

The property has a current market value of $1.5 million according to zillow.com. The City of Los Altos California Historical Commission should have already had another meeting, but has not yet released anymore meeting minutes from their website. If the historical property evaluation goes through, the house will be an official historical property, and the owners will receive a plaque.

Van Nguyen, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, believes that the historical property evaluation of Steve Job's old house should be approved.

"Steve Jobs brought so much to the technology world and changed our culture."

Shawn Craig, Senior, said that for what he has done for our culture, giving his old home a historic property evaluation is worthwhile.

"Steve Jobs did not have enough of an impact for his house to have that title. Additionally, he is not worthy enough." said an anonymous UTS employee who doesn't think that Steve Jobs's old home should be given a historic property evaluation.

Dr. Bryan Reagan, Associate Professor of Computer Science and Information Systems, who has a lot of insight on Steve Jobs, said:

"Steve Jobs was an eccentric, a very influential man in and of himself. He was also a very creative and very artistic man. Steve Jobs was certainly a great businessman, however, many people think of him as only a scientist. But was he really a scientist or was he a businessman? Steve Jobs did not actually create the Graphical User Interface (GUI) and mouse that we see on computers today; but he sold it to everyone. Actually the GUI and mouse was created by Dr. Alan Kay and his team at Xerox who were eventually fired for wasting the company's money on developing the mouse and the GUI. Kay and most of the people that worked on his team were hired by Apple. Kay also had the idea of the first portable computer, and few people know any of this."

Steve Jobs first got involved in technology because he assembled Atari cartridges for the Atari video game system. Steve Jobs was also interested in fonts and typefaces and took a class on them in college. Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak created the Apple I, which was just a motherboard, back in 1976. In 1977, Jobs and Wozniak created the Apple II which was a very popular and revolutionary computer for its time. In 1984 Apple introduced the original Macintosh which was the first modern computers could buy which implemented the Graphical User Interface (GUI) and the mouse developed by Dr. Alan Kay and his team.

Is Steve Jobs a historically significant person? Yes. But is his house? Possibly.

THE LIONS' PRIDE

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Campus News

University Speaker Series "Sweat: the truth about Nike Swoosh"

By Kenna Dieffenwierth
Contributing Writer

Style is important to many, but what is the true cost of the clothes you wear? Wednesday, Oct. 9, human rights activist Jim Keady came to Saint Leo University to answer this question.

His goal is to put an end to sweatshops.

His presentation began with a documentary outlining his fight with one company in particular, Nike. Keady was a soccer coach at St. John's University. He was studying theology and looking into the topic of social justice when his school struck a deal with Nike. He had been looking into Nike and their unethical practices and exploitation of factory workers. When he refused to wear the Nike logo, he was fired. It was hard for him to believe that the Catholic university he worked for would willingly endorse a company whose business practices contradicted their morals and core values.

This sparked the beginning of his fight for ethical treatment of factory workers around the world. He chose to set an example and focus on one company and the factories in one country. He chose to target Nike factories in Indonesia.

Following being fired, Keady and a college friend, Leslie Kretzu, went to Indonesia to live like factory workers. They lived off of $1.25 a day -- this is the amount that a factory worker in a Nike factory in Indonesia would have to live on based on their salary.

"Without a doubt, we found out in the first week that we were there, that there's no way that you can live on $1.25 a day and maintain your human dignity. It's just not possible," said Kretzu in the film.

"I lost 25 pounds living on Nike's wages in Indonesia," said Keady.

Kretzu reported constantly being ill, but in order to afford to buy medicine, you had to sacrifice some of your meals. Workers cannot afford to send their children to school. Five to ten worker families share a bathroom. There is no money for anything outside of bare necessities.

The factory workers worked 15 hours a day, six to seven days a week. They are sometimes forced to work overtime.

One of the workers stated, "The only thing I have is my labor."

Nike factories disposes of their leftover shoe rubber by dumping in a field where children play. The rubber would be burned releasing toxic fumes into the air.

When Keady tried to speak with Nike headquarters about these issues, no one would talk with him and ordered workers not to talk to him or Kretzu. They threatened workers with everything from harassment to death.

Nike's factories have intimidating hired muscle to keep workers from organizing unions or doing anything else they don't like.

When Keady returned to the United States, he approached Nike's CEO, who refused to talk about anything pertaining to Nike factory conditions.

Keady showed workers a pay chart comparing worker wages to that of celebrities and athletes that endorse Nike.

"Tiger Woods makes enough in a second to buy me a house," said one worker according to Keady.

This documentary is only 20 minutes long and can be viewed on the front page of www.teamsweat.org.

Following the film, Keady gave a PowerPoint presentation digging even deeper into this serious situation and taking a critical look at Nike.

Nike makes $24.1 billion dollars revenue and $2.2 billion dollars profits. They employ 1,009,496 workers and own 777 factories in 43 different countries. Despite this incredible amount of profit, Nike tried to get out of increasing their workers' pay when the minimum wagewas raised in Indonesia by claiming they were going through hard times.

Nike has lied repeatedly to the media to protect their image and discredit those who oppose them. An official Nike statement in 2000 claimed that their critics had the right issue, but were targeting the wrong company. They said this when there were cases of their workers being abused. Abuses like sun drenching (when workers are forced to stand in the sun for an hour at noon as punishment), verbal abuse, physical abuse, forced overtime, wage cheating, and union busting.

Keady explained that his goal is to end all sweatshops, but he focuses on Nike because they are the top in their market. They have 50 brands around the world, produce over 50,000 products per year and sell in more than 160 countries. They are an industry leader that sets an example for other companies. Through Nike, he hopes to create a model for change that can be adjusted, scaled and replicated.

Keady has been working on this for the past 15 years. In that time, some change has been made. One example would be the dumping of shoe rubber. After eight years of trying to get action on this issue, a Nike representative looked into the issue and changed one site to improve waste disposal. Another example would be a group of workers winning a court case for forced overtime and getting a $1 million dollar settlement. Minimum wage in Indonesia has raised 40 percent.

It costs $16.25 to produce a pair of Air Jordans, but around $200 to purchase them. The average pair of Nikes cost $170 in a mall in Indonesia. This is equal to almost one month's wages for the factory worker that made them. One game for Lebron James is equal to about 9.5 years of work for a factory worker.

When one worker was asked what he would do if he made more money, he said he would buy a pair of Nikes so that he could show his daughter what he made. The workers are proud of what they do and want to work, they just want to be treated like human beings.

Alta Gracia is one brand that treats their workers like human beings and pay workers three times minimum wage. The brand owns their own factory, has negotiations with unions and their products are priced competitively. This proves that it is possible to treat workers fairly and still thrive as a successful company.

The presentation closed with some intriguing questions. Should student athletes have a choice to cover company logos on their uniforms? Athletes are walking advertisements for immoral companies who violate the University's core values.

Keady ended by asking those in attendance to join Team Sweat (against Nike) on Facebook (www.facebook.com/teamsweat), to email Nike CEO Mark Parker (Mark.Parker@Nike.com subject "Just Pay It!") and to email three friends at different schools to encourage them to bring "Sweat" to their campus. He then encouraged everyone to not be walking advertisements and go logo-less.

The students and teachers that turned up for this event seemed to have found it to be informative and inspiring.

"The presentation was very eye opening and inspired me to try and make a difference," said Freshman Danica L.

"Hearing facts about the sweat shops and people in Indonesia made me want to go make a change," said Freshman Sarah Johnson.

Campus News

Fall Family Festival

By Janet Small, Dexomia Livia, Marlene Camacho
Contributing Writers

The 2013 Fall Family Festival had something for everyone who participated.

The festival began in style on Friday Oct. 11 with a hypnotism show by the talented Dr. Jim Wand. There was also a golf outing, dinner, a volleyball game, and a sibling movie night.

The next day the carnival began. There was a wide range of attractions for the students and families to enjoy including carnival rides like the Ferris wheel, Zorbing, a water drop game, and the biggest hit of the day- elephant rides.

"I love it…I definitely think Saint Leo should be doing this. It would only be better if it [the fair] was bigger!" said Freshman Loren Semazio.

Sebastian, a Benedictine monk from the Abby, couldn't have agreed more with Loren.

"I love [the festival] my favorite attraction is the elephant. I'm on my way there, to ride it."

During the fair there were two very talented singers performing in the Bowl. They were Adelee and Gentry Gates, sisters from Dayton, Ohio, who have been singing together for seven years.

Adelee began singing and playing guitar at 10 years old and she taught her younger sister, Gentry, harmony when Gentry was 12. They have released one album 'Nice to Meet You' and will be beginning campus tours next year. They impressed many people with their range of music from country, pop, and contemporary. Dayanne, a parent, and her husband who were at Saint Leo visiting their daughter, who thought the singers were the best part of the event.

In addition to the rides and attractions, many of the clubs and organizations on campus had booths to raise money for themselves or charities. The sisters in the Rho class of Theta Phi Alpha dedicated their stand to raise money for Breast Cancer Awareness and managed to raise $118.30 by selling ribbons and cookies.

Alpha Phi Alpha brother Kyle Speers praised the fair saying that it was a good way to bring families down to the University and helps in making Saint Leo a "home away from home" for the students here. Their stand was dedicated to promoting the Miss Black and Gold Scholarship Pageant they will be hosting on Tuesday the 15th of October, in which seven girls will compete for the chance to win a scholarship worth $1000.

The Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity had a stand at the fair to raise money for their fraternity. People could throw a dart at a balloon for two dollars, and if they were successful they could then throw a water balloon at a brother! A member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Johnathon, Junior, said that this year's Fall Festival had improved from last year, with more people and a better atmosphere.

There were also opportunities to throw pies at students and even slime members of the Campus Activities Board. Many of Saint Leo's clubs also made appearances at the fair, from the Math Club hosting a 'guess the amount of Skittles' game, to the Intercultural Student Association which offered nail paintings in your national flag and they sold candy bracelets made by children.

In the evening, the Dining Hall showcased their abilities by treating students, families and staff to a delicious spread of pork, wild rice, Spanish potatoes, a variety of vegetables, breads, black beans, and platters of fresh fruit, as well as beautiful deserts such as red velvet cake, cookies and more!

Many of the parents appreciated the Fall Family Festival as an opportunity to see for themselves how their children were settling into college life. One parent, Beverley Renald of Poinciana, FL said how staying with her freshman daughter this weekend at Henderson had been a fun experience and how "this kind of event is great because they include the families in this type of activities and it's a nice and safe environment. We get to see what the kids are doing, who their friends are, get to know some of the activities that they are involved in."

Another parent, John Gendran, agreed, saying that "this is my first year here at this fair, my son just transferred as a junior to Saint Leo. This kind of activity makes us feel like he's home. I think the food and music are good, it's nice to see the fraternities and sororities here too."

Many of the faculty staff had a great time at the fair as well. Most of them came with families to make the most of their break from work. "I have been working here since 2007, and the fair is great every year. " – Frank Casuba, Retail Supervisor at the Lion's Lair.

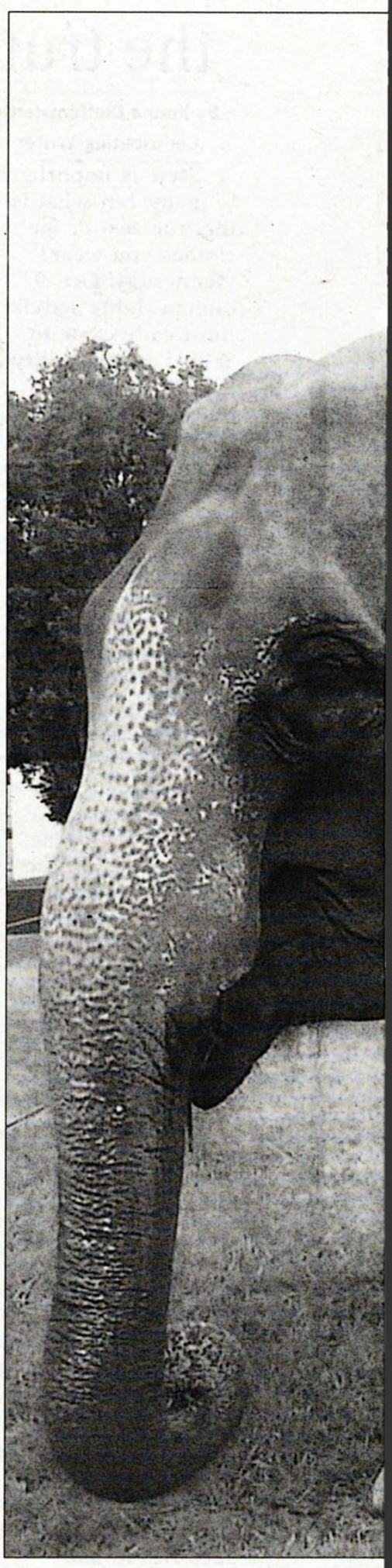
Katy Wen, a graduate student working as the manager of Athletic Communications, also enjoyed the weekend. "It's been great… to see students and families. It's pretty exciting. I think Saint Leo should keep doing this, I was here for four years and we always had this going on. It is really cool because you see people from everywhere. Iwish it wasn't this hot but I can't do anything about that! I wouldn't change anything, I like it!"

There was also a number of other activities run throughout the day, such as smoothies by the pool, a student fine arts presentation, and a parent and family reception at the Apartment Buildings 5 & 6 Courtyard.

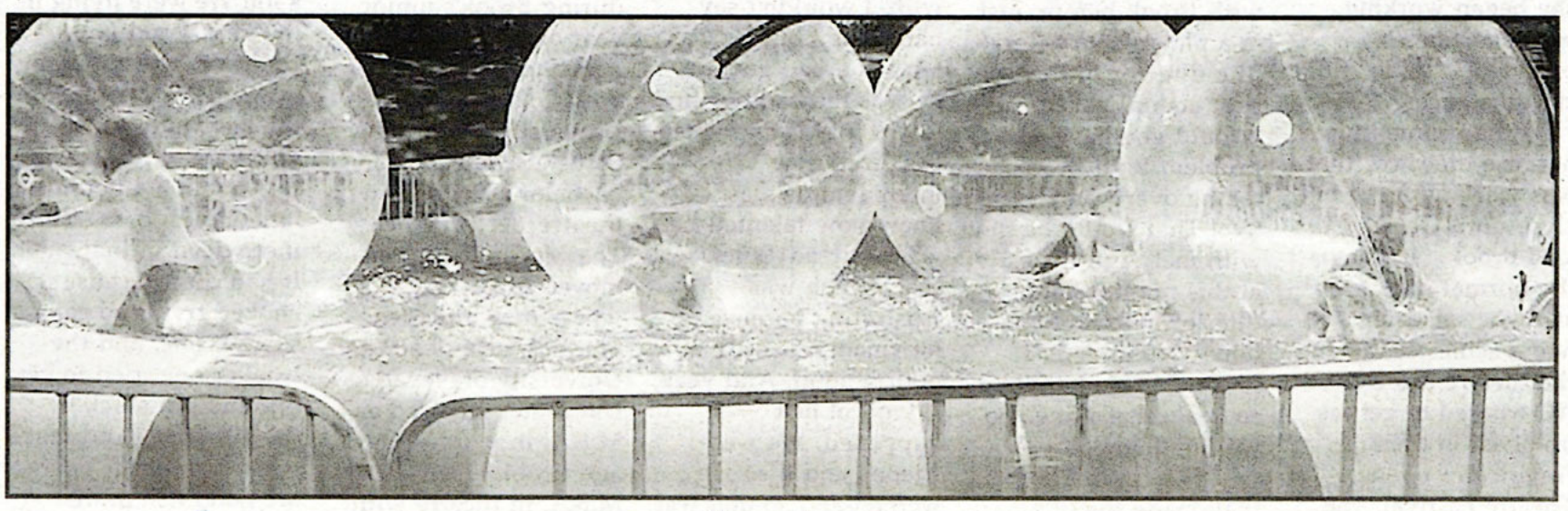
Later in the evening there was a student, faculty and staff talent show. To finish off Saturday night there was a firework show by Pyrotecnico which impressed many of the students and families.

On Sunday the festival came to a close after families enjoyed a special Mass together and brunch.

For anyone who missed the Fall Family Festival this year, have no fear! There will be another festival in the spring.



Campus News



Arts & Entertainment

Spotlight: David and Brook McGinnis

By Shawnee Arnett
Contributing Writer

David McGinnis, the head of the University's dramaturgy program, and Brook McGinnis, an instructor of fine arts at the University, have graced the campus with their presence since their arrival in 2007. Affectionately known by their students as Dmac and Bmac, respectively, the McGinnises have brought a strong sense of community to the dramaturgy program. They also brought a wide variety of theatre skills and experiences that would help them develop the dramaturgy program as a whole.

Dave McGinnis was born and raised in Amarillo, Texas, where he wasted no time in getting involved in theatre during his early years. Brook McGinnis, though born in Austin, Texas, moved to Amarillo at an early age and was raised there as well. Though they were involved in the same arts community and even performed in the same production in middle school, they did not become well acquainted with each other until Brook's return from her first year of college at Southern Utah University. Brook, who had become homesick during her year away, transferred to Amarillo College for her sophomore year, where she began working with Dave in a production under fluke circumstances.

"I had come in late because the show that I was working on didn't close until October," said Brook. "It was past the normal time to start the semester, so I had a semester off. But the theatre director at AC wanted to get me involved in their American College Theatre Festival. The lead actress was having problems with lines and it just wasn't working for her and so he ended up replacing her with me three days [before] we opened. And so Dave was playing the lead and I was the romantic lead opposite that."

Photo Courtesy of Brook McGinnis
David and Brook McGinnis in a promo photo for Oldyweds and Tiny Threads.

When giving his view on the experience, Dave also remembered the old leading actress: "There was this actress in [the show] and she just wasn't getting it. [...] We opened the show with her and she never got off book. Well anyway, Brook came back... Because I had been hanging out with Brook before, just in a platonic way, Terry [the director of the production] asked me 'Would you have a problem with Brook taking over?' and I said 'No! That would be fine with me!' And honestly, at this point, I had no ulterior motive. I honestly said 'No, I know she can handle it, so yeah, that's fine.' So we did. She got in."

When asked how they made the transition from platonic friends to significant others, Brook said: "He was very kind and helped me with my lines basically for three days. I mean, that's all we did for three days was study lines. Then I was in the show and we ended up touring a week later with the American College Theatre Festival. We started off as really good friends, which was interesting, because I pretty much hated him in high school. I knew of him, and he was not the sort that I would have necessarily hung out with. I wouldn't say hated him, but he was kind of a bad guy, so he was the bad boy and it was interesting when I realized how intelligent he was. I knew how talented he was. I already knew that, which was frustrating because of how bad he was [in high school]. And yeah, it kind of just happened. We were friends and then we weren't and so that was the case."

Dave, when asked how he had decided that he wanted to pursue a romantic relationship with Brook, he said: "What it was, I think, was that she was playing a World War II nurse and she was in that nurse's outfit. It was about one size too small, and so it was just about right as far as I was concerned. I was playing a Scottish World War II soldier. In Act III I was in a kilt the whole time, so I'm pretty sure that's about what did it."

The McGinnises were married on December 20, 1997, during Brook's junior year of college. The pair finished college at West Texas A&M University, where they both received Bachelor's Degrees in theatre performance. The McGinnises then moved to Las Vegas, where they attended graduate school at The University of Nevada. Dave later received an M.F.A. in playwriting and Brook received an M.F.A. in theatre with an emphasis in arts administration.

After living and working in Las Vegas, Brook saw that there was a job opening for a new head of theatre at the University. She encouraged Dave to interview for it, and he agreed. When asked how he had felt about the potential change at the time, Dave said: "I had not really made my mind up. [...] I was doing okay, and Brook had a good job at UNLV, and so we were doing fine, but something was wrong. We couldn't quite put our finger on it, but something was wrong. I'm going to be honest, when I first saw it, I sort of glossed over it. I didn't actually put in for this job the moment I saw it. I didn't think anything about it, and then Brook actually saw it and said I should and I said 'Well, okay'. I didn't have a reason not to, I just hadn't done it. And then I did and, sure enough, they called and I still wasn't sure."

"I was scheduled for an 11:00 interview," he added. "I got here at 9:30 on purpose so that I could see the place without a guide, without any lens or without any glasses, without anybody telling me any stories, just so I could see whatever was there and be done with it. I knew there was a lake already, and that was a big part of why I agreed to apply in the first place. I like to fish a lot. We were living in the desert and I couldn't. [...] So I came down here to look at the lake, and when I got there, on the dock was about a 4 pound largemouth bass sitting there dead in the water. It had died because it choked trying to eat a smaller one, and the smaller one tried to get out and got stuck in the gill plate. And that's when I realized 'There are good fish in that

Arts & Entertainment

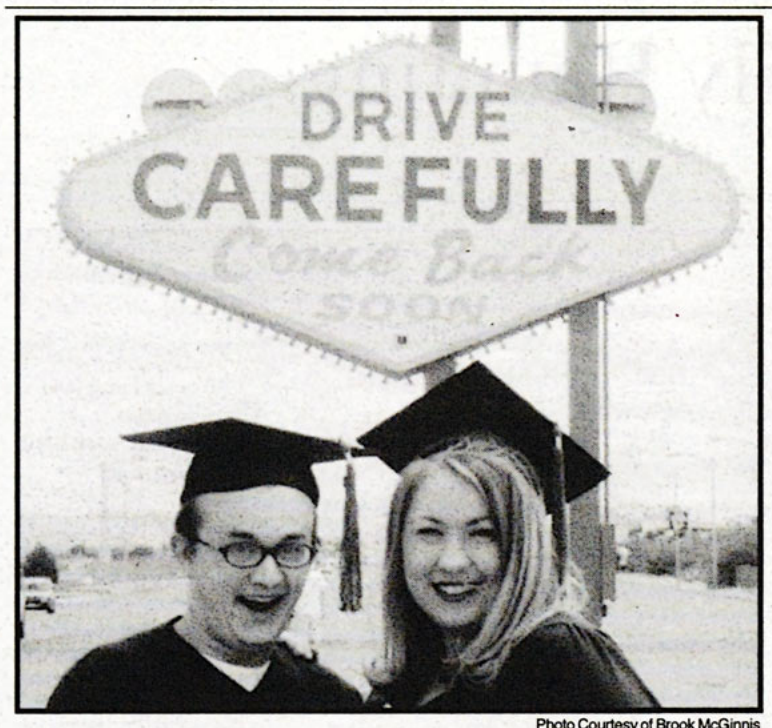


Photo Courtesy of Brook McGinnis
David and Brook McGinnis announcing their graduation from UNLV.

lake. Okay, so I might want to be here.' So that was the first thing that actually did it.

"The next thing that did it was everybody was really nice," he continued. "That was nice. Everybody was really attentive and that was a big part of it. Then I sort of looked around and looked at maps and such to see what kind of fishing places there were around here, and there are obviously quite a few because it's Florida. And then, flying back, I was flying over the desert and thought 'Yeah, I'm going to go there.' I got back and I said, 'I really want to go fishing.' Somebody said 'Dude, you live in Vegas.' And then I said 'That's right. Not for long.'"

When asked about her take on Dave's transition to head of theatre at the University, Brook said: "I actually found it [the job opening] because, I thought, with his playwriting background and dramaturgy background that a theatre program within an English program would actually be a good fit for him. I was not keen on Florida, but he really liked it when he interviewed here and I kind of trusted him with this one. I don't like humidity, I'm not a fan of bugs, but I trusted him." Brook added that, despite the bugs and humidity, Florida has its perks: She now has the ability to visit Walt Disney World whenever she pleases.

Dave also noted the differences between the dramaturgy program now and the theatre program that existed before his 2007 arrival.

"For one thing, we now have the dramaturgy program over the theatre program" he explained. "The dramaturgy program fits in better with the English major because dramaturgy is a more literary study. That was a pretty obvious decision for me. I said at the time we made the change 'I don't know how we can have a theatre major without a theatre. You can't have baseball without baseballs. It's kind of the same thing.' So, I think it worked out in that respect. It's worked out now because before, we had an English core. [The theatre program] was just a list of classes that people had to take for their theatre major and it didn't mean anything. They just took these classes. There was no point. They didn't integrate it. English studies and theatre studies were not related at all; they had nothing to do with each other. Now they're actually interrelated, and so they actually have a point. So that was the big thing for me. It is a more literary program now. It's more developmental. It focuses now more on contemporary dramatic literature and the development of contemporary dramatic literature, which I think is an advantage, because contemporary dramatic literature fits what we have."

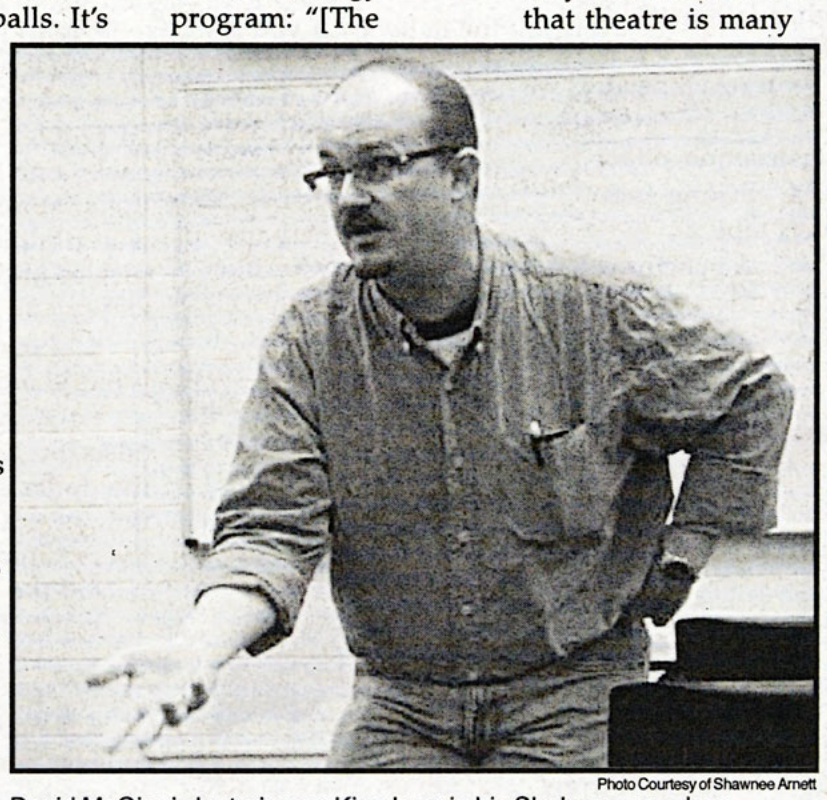


Photo Courtesy of Shawnee Arnett
David McGinnis lecturing on King Lear in his Shakespeare class.

Dave also added that his wide variety of theatre experiences help him in directing the dramaturgy program: "[The program] needed somebody who could at least do most of everything. Nobody with a pure directing or pure acting background was ever going to work in this job. There's just no way. They'd lose their mind. They'd snap. They wouldn't be able to do anything. If all you've done is perform or direct or even only design or only write, it would drive you crazy. You wouldn't be able to do seven eighths of the job, not because you're incompetent, just because you don't have the experience. And you have to have the mentality. As shocking at it may sound, I'm actually patient enough to deal with it. Well, you have to be patient in any theatre position. It doesn't matter where you are."

"I think it's exciting because it's growing," Brook said about the dramaturgy program. "We're at kind of the creation stage, and it's always exciting to see something become what it's going to be. The potential is the most exciting thing."

Both of the McGinnises were asked what skill they most wanted students of the dramaturgy program to graduate with.

"A sense of self," Brook answered. "A sense of their place in the larger theatrical community so that they can understand that theatre is many things and that there are many avenues that they can go on."

"Self-sufficiency," Dave said. "The ability to make their own calls, to be able to make their own judgments without guidance. That's ultimately what makes it work or not: the ability to make a decision based on their own assessments without anybody affecting it at all. Once you can do that, you're ready. You might be wrong sometimes, but so am I, so welcome to the club."

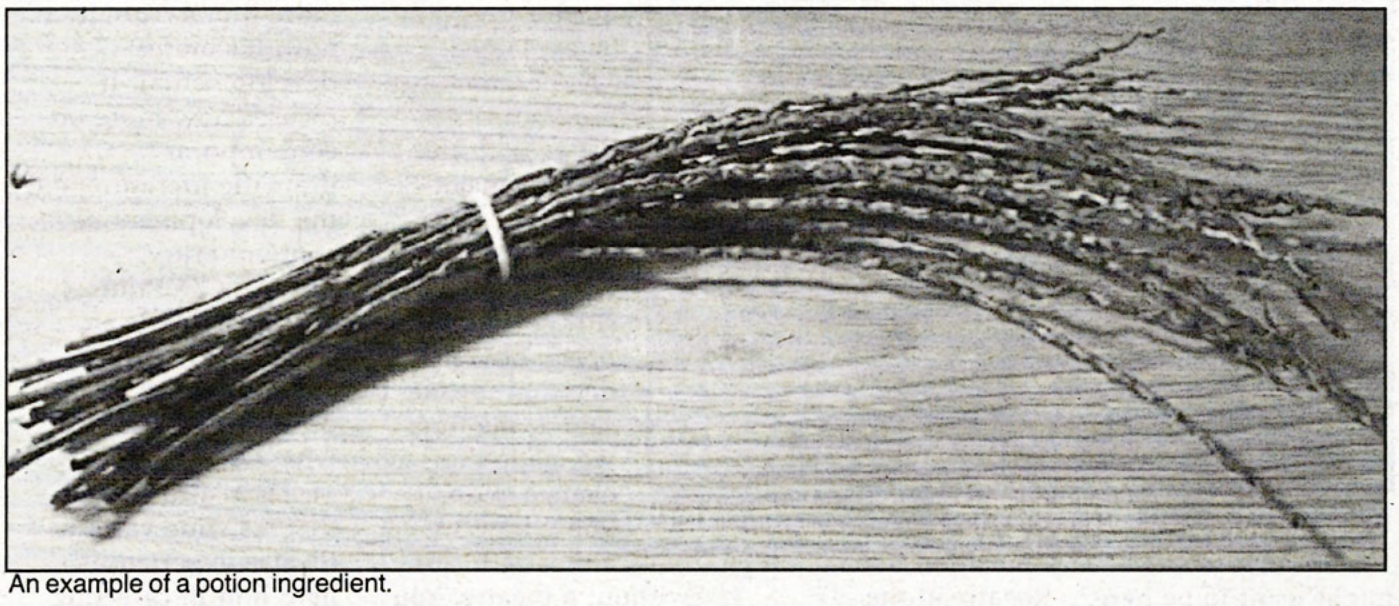
There is no doubt that with these two developing the dramaturgy program, it will produce many self-sufficient and self-aware students for years to come.

Photo Courtesy of Brook McGinnis
David and Brook McGinnis during a college production of Hasty Heart.

Halloween

Decorating Dorms: Happily Haunting Hypotheses

By Wendy Legorete
Distribution Manager

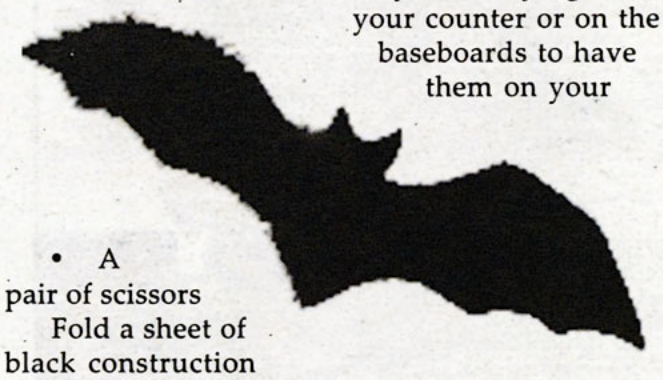


An example of a potion ingredient.

Photos taken by Wendy Legorete

Halloween is sneaking up on us (it does that, after all, it is one of the more mischievous holidays next to Valentine's Day) and I for one have not prepared the dorm room to its fullest freaky potential. However, there is still time to vamp up your dwelling with a few of these eye-popping props: Wall-Bats (And Other Silhouette Ideas):

- You'll need:
- Sheets of black construction paper
- Strong (not duct) tape
- A pencil



- A pair of scissors

Fold a sheet of black construction paper in half and draw the profile of a bat with its torso on the folded edge of the paper (if you are not artistic, there are plenty of bat stencils on the internet that you can print out if need be).

Cut this bat out, and you now have your own stencil for making the others. Continue tracing and cutting out the bats until you have a whole stack of them.

Unfold the stack of bats individually and start sticking them on the wall with a rolled up piece of tape stuck to the paper crease.

Arrange them any way you like, although I like to start with a single bat by the door and gradually add more in bunches to make it look like they're flying in from the hallway. If you're not that into bats, you still have a lot of options that you can make with black construction paper. You can cut out the paper in the shape of rats and tape them on the wall in the kitchen like they're scurrying across your counter or on the baseboards to have them on your floor. You can also cut out little spiders and have them crawling around near the ceiling, or make ravens and stick them to the windows to make it look as though they're perched on your sill. Even still, and this happens to be my favorite, you can cut out the silhouettes in the shape of little humanoid creatures and have them peeking out at you from behind the couch or a desk or the toilet—whatever suits you.

Stocked Specimens:

This category covers a broad range of possibilities that you can create to spruce up a living room table to satisfy your needs to feel like a potions master or a mad scientist—but just to keep it simple, here's two ideas:

Organ Jars

You'll need:

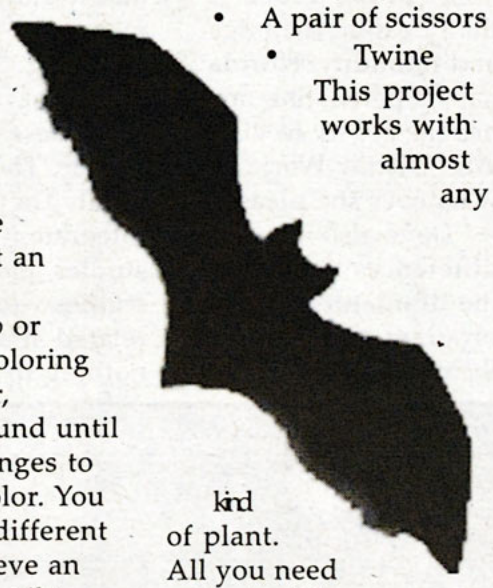
- A sealable glass jar (you can pick up a cheap one from the dollar store or you can wait till that jar of pickles in the fridge is empty and wash it out)
- Food coloring (your choice of color)
- A rubber organ (also can be found at the dollar store—they've got hearts, livers, a nice variety)

Fill the jar with water, but remember to leave some space above the brim because the water will rise when you put an organ into it.

Put a drop or two of food coloring into the water, stirring it around until the water changes to the desired color. You can mix two different colors to achieve an other-worldly vibe. Usually, I like to start with a light color in case the water turns out a shade too dark, but you can do whatever you want.

Put your rubber organ in and seal the jar tight to make sure it won't leak or spill.

You can place them literally anywhere where they won't get accidently knocked over. Put them on top of your fridge to cause your guests to give a double-take, or if you're more into macabre romance, put a heart in a jar and acquire some fake black roses to stick out the top (that's what my roommate and I did, and I must say, I feel elegant).



Potion Ingredients

You'll need:

- Any bunch of plants you can get your hands on (legally)
- A pair of scissors
- Twine

This project works with almost any kind of plant. All you need to do is pick up some stray plants and take them home with you. I like topull up weeds or pick up dead pine needles.

Once you have your plants, leave them out somewhere to dry up, so they will have more of an "authentic" feel to them.

The period of time to allow the plants to dry doesn't matter, just as long as you don't seal them in something airtight and put it by the window sill (if you do that and it'll start to grow mold).

When your plants are suitably dry, snip the recognizable parts of them off. As an example, I once used dandelions in one of my projects. I snipped off the heads and stems to use just the roots.

When your plants are doctored to your taste, wrap them up in some twine.

That's about it—now you can set them anywhere to make them a part of a bewitchingly rustic atmosphere.

Remember, you can expand upon these ideas any way imaginable, and don't be afraid to experiment on your own—Failure is just another step toward success.

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